

CURRENT SPORTING GOSSIP

SELECTION OF EMERYVILLE ENDS LONG FIGHT WRANGLE.

Scene of Jeffries-Johnson Battle Not Far From Prison, While He Has Turned Down Because of Bickering—Pugilists Satisfied and Will Begin Work.

The selection of the Emeryville racetrack at Oakland, Cal., which was selected by the trackmen Saturday for the Jeffries-Johnson fight on July 1 is the result of some who were pulling by Richard and Gleason, promoters, who have refused to be held in a roundabout style by certain individuals in the Earthquake City. It is understood that Richard was informed ten days ago that he could have a permit to hold the fight in Frisco for \$5,000 cash and 20 per cent of the money in excess of the purse and expenses. Richard refused to be held up in this manner, with the result that when Thomas H. Williams, owner of the Emeryville track, received a hint that he could get the fight, he jumped at a chance to recover the losses incurred by the race meeting which has been running at Oakland all winter.

Emeryville is a township which includes the racetrack property. It has its own mayor and police force and enjoys the status of the only city of Alameda county whose tracks have been held by large boats running from Frisco. In about twenty-five minutes, the battleground had been shifted far from the Earthquake City as San Mateo Island is from the Bay Area. The boats are equipped with dining rooms and can transport many passengers. The grand stand on the track has room for 3,500 spectators, but new stands will be constructed to accommodate 20,000 more at least, Richard says. The ring will be pitched in the field not far away from the judges' stand and the crowd will surround it on all sides. As the track is outside the city limits the law permits a forty-five-round fight without a chance for a hit.

Richard was notified yesterday that the battleground had been selected expressed satisfaction with the place. Jeffries, who is in Los Angeles, said he had been invited to fight here or in California. He confirmed the report that he had chosen a place in the mountains near Santa Cruz for his regular training camp and that he would begin his work here on April 1. Richard's agents were engaged quarters near San Francisco and will begin training on May 15. Big Tim Sullivan, the permanent manager, received a telegram yesterday from Richard stating that Emeryville had been finally chosen and that work on the big arena would begin as soon as the winter training camp ends, early in April. Richard also declared there was nothing left to be done except the posting of the entire \$101,000 purse and the selection of a referee.

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It is well understood that the referee must be a "native son," and as Johnson is strongly in favor of Welsh he may be the man chosen.

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engaged in a fight because of the attitude of John L. Herrel, one of the police superintendents.

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